

Urban District of Lakes

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1947

KENDAL

TITUS WILSON AND SON LTD., PRINTERS

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To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Lakes.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Urban District during the year 1947.

During my first year as Medical Officer of Health I have concentrated upon a review of the general conditions of your District. Study of past practice has enabled me to work out the lines upon which progress may continue. I propose during the coming year to ask you to define your policy for the future.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, will not affect the functions of your Health Department to any appreciable extent. It will, however, relieve me of the burden of the personal services and enable me to devote more time to the primary functions of hygiene and preventive medicine. I believe that great opportunities for progress lie ahead.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague, the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the general medical practitioners of the District.

I am indebted also to the Sanitary Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my Department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

If you desire any further particulars I shall be glad to furnish them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Area of the Urban District in acres | ... | ... | 49,917 |
| Population (mid 1947) | ... | ... | 5,173 |
| Inhabited houses | ... | ... | 1,708 |
| Rateable Vale | ... | ... | £58,228 |

Footnotes provide Full National Grid Map References.

The Urban District of Lakes lies in the heart of the English Lake District and will be the nucleus of the proposed National Park. About three miles of the north-eastern shore of Windermere Lake lie within the District, and the inhabited areas are sited along three main valley systems which radiate from the Lake. To the west lie the Langdales, to the north the dales of Rydal and Grasmere, and to the north-east the Troutbeck Valley which leads over the Kirkstone Pass to the geographically detached dalehead of Patterdale and Glenridding at the head of Ullswater Lake. Your Council offices are situated at Ambleside.¹

The valley bottoms lie between 150 and 300 feet above sea level in the major western portion, and in the Patterdale area at about 500 feet. The massive crags and fells rise steeply to altitudes of between two and three thousand feet, comprising some of the finest mountain scenery in Great Britain. Some of the valleys are wooded but the fellsides are majestically covered only by brackens and heather. The stone-built houses are scattered irregularly along the valleys, with only two large villages or townships of any size, Ambleside and Grasmere. The District is therefore essentially rural in character. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore influence the spread of infectious diseases.

The geology of the District is almost entirely confined to the Borrowdale Volanic series of lavas, tuffs and agglomerates, with some igneous intrusions. The lavas are mainly andesites with rhyolites at various horizons. The fragmentary rocks resulting from explosive eruptions vary from fine-grained tuffs and ashes to coarse agglomerates and breccias. Lateral pressure has converted some of the tuffs into slates suitable for roofing. In the extreme south of the District the thin bands of the Coniston Limestone and Ashgillian Series are interposed between the Borrowdale Series and the commencement of the Silurian Rocks which stretch away to the south of the County. Work-

¹ 35/374041.

able deposits of non-ferrous metals, particularly lead, are found in the north-eastern part of the District. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, sewerage and occupational diseases as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is mild and equable in the valleys, and invigorating on the fellsides and uplands. The dales of Rydal, Grasmere and Troutbeck are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and, being open to the south, provide full access to sunshine. The Langdales are more exposed, and Patterdale although sheltered has a northerly aspect. Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in spring and autumn but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall averages 70 inches a year, but this figure is due more to the heaviness of the rain when it occurs rather than to an undue proportion of rainy days. Snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is predominantly a holiday centre for climbing, walking, and enjoying the scenery of mountains and lakes, and there is a large influx of seasonal visitors which raises the population to an estimated peak of approximately 8,000. This tourist trade has been imposed upon the basic characteristic of agriculture, mainly sheep-farming, and many of the small local industries are therefore ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide a certain amount of local employment and stability to the District to help balance the fluctuating conditions of the seasonal holiday trade:—

Slate Quarries.

Lead Mines.

The variety of these opportunities for local employment has helped to check the drift from the countryside and has kept the District happily free from unemployment. These industries, together with the trade associated with the hotels and boarding houses, have provided that economic security and local prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of public health.

The rateable value of the Urban District is £58,228, and the product of a penny rate is £221. The Rate for 1947/48 is 16/- in the Pound, of which 13/6d. represents the County Rate.

STAFF.

| Name. | Qualifications. | Office. | Whole or Part Time. | Other Offices. |
|-----------------|---|--|---------------------------|---|
| F. T. Madge | M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H. | Medical Officer of Health. | Part | M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland |
| J. H. McAdam | Cert. S.I.B. | Sanitary Inspector. | Part | Building Surveyor. |
| S. B. Grimes | — | Clerk. | Part | — |
| B. M. Machell | — | Clerk to Medical Officer of Health. | Part | Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland |
| W. N. Battersby | M.Inst.Gas E. | Water Engineer | Part | Gas Engineer |
| A. F. Fildes | M.Inst.Mun. & Cy.E. | Water Engineer | Part | Surveyor |

There have been no changes in the staff during the year. Clerical assistance is afforded by the part-time service of a female clerk.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1946 for comparison:—

Area of the District in acres 49,917

| | 1946 | 1947 |
|---|-------|-------|
| Estimated civilian population (mid-year) .. | 5,247 | 5,173 |
| Live Births. Legitimate— | | |
| males | 36 | 32 |
| females | 29 | 34 |
| Illegitimate— | | |
| males | 1 | 1 |
| females | 4 | 1 |
| Total | 70 | 68 |
| Rate per 1,000 population .. | 13.3 | 13.1 |
| Rate for England and Wales .. | 19.1 | 20.5 |
| Stillbirths. Legitimate— | | |
| males | 1 | 6 |
| females | 1 | 1 |
| Illegitimate— | | |
| males | — | — |
| females | — | — |
| Total | 2 | 7 |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) | 27.8 | 93.3 |
| Rate per 1,000 population .. | 0.38 | 1.35 |
| ,, for England and Wales .. | 0.53 | 0.50 |
| Deaths. Males | 33 | 44 |
| Females | 30 | 45 |
| Total | 63 | 89 |
| Rate per 1,000 population | 12.0 | 17.2 |
| Rate, England and Wales | 11.5 | 12.0 |
| Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) | | |
| Legitimate | 1 | 3 |
| Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births | 15.4 | 45.4 |
| Illegitimate | — | — |
| Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births | — | — |
| Total Deaths under 1 year | 1 | 3 |
| Rate per 1,000 live births | 14.3 | 44 |
| Rate for England and Wales | 43 | 41 |

| | 1946 | 1947 |
|---|------|------|
| Neonatal Deaths. (under 1 month) | | |
| Total neonatal deaths | — | 3 |
| Rate per 1,000 live births | — | 44 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) | | |
| Deaths | — | — |
| Rate per 1,000 live births | — | — |
| Rate for England and Wales | 4.4 | 5.8 |
| Maternal Mortality | | |
| Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis | — | — |
| Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births | — | — |
| Deaths from other Puerperal Causes | — | — |
| Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births | — | — |
| Total deaths | — | — |
| Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births | — | — |
| Rate for England and Wales | 1.43 | 1.17 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Deaths from certain causes:— | 1946. | 1947. |
| Cancer | 6 | 11 |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | Nil |
| Measles | Nil | Nil |

The main causes of death were:—

| | |
|---|----|
| Heart Disease | 35 |
| Cancer | 11 |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 9 |

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1947.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of your civilian mid-year resident population was 5,173 which is 74 less than last year. This loss may be represented as an excess of deaths over births of 21 and the emigration from your district of at least 53 persons.

This estimated population is the lowest since the formation of your Council in 1935, but a proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

Long before the Lakes Urban District was formed the constituent authorities of Ambleside, Grasmere, South Westmorland and the West Ward were all steadily declining in population. For example, both Ambleside and Grasmere Urban Districts between 1911 and their absorption in 1935 showed a nett average loss per year of one-half per cent. The newly formed Lakes Urban District continued to experience the same decline until 1939. The causes of this decline were twofold; firstly, the number of deaths always exceeded the number of births, and even the birth-rate was well below the average for England and Wales; secondly, there were many people each year who left the district to settle elsewhere.

1939 saw the turn of the tide, and in the next three years there was an almost overwhelming immigration of war evacuees from the vulnerable areas. Your District absorbed between 45 per cent. and 50 per cent. extra persons over its pre-war population, a feat normally achieved only at the peak of the short holiday season. When bombing ceased in the big towns the evacuees gradually left the Lakes, so that by 1946 you had returned to your normal pre-war population.

Your births have fallen below your deaths. Your birth-rate is a mere 64 per cent. of the average for England and Wales, and well below your death-rate. Moreover, the emigration of residents has restarted. You are a declining community — declining at a much faster pace than the rest of the nation, and the reasons are economic ones.

I believe that the drift from the District is composed mainly of your young folk, and hence your birth-rate is so low. The factors which are driving them out are not difficult to see, although they are so very difficult to remedy. This exodus is more than the arithmetical answer of 53 because so many more are balanced by the immigration of elderly people on their retirement to your District.

The cold statistical representation of the official figures tends to obscure their human significance which is the revelation of the ambitions and disappointments of your own folk around you. There is much scope here for sober reflection.

Birth-Rate.

I have already referred to the continued deplorably low birth-rate which for many years has been only about two-thirds of the rate for England and Wales. Apart from the local economic circumstances the effect of the two wars aggravated the position. The present child-bearing and begetting population suffered twice. There is a sad gap

in their ranks due to the unborn casualties of the first world war, and at the onset of the second war their marriages were delayed, prevented or frustrated at the time of their maximum fertility. If your native community is to survive you must raise your birth-rate well above your death-rate, and to do that you will have to recapture and hold the faith of your young people in country life.

Stillbirth-Rate.

The stillbirth-rate was unusually high in 1947, being about thrice the rate for England and Wales and your normal rate. Against this, however, must be weighed the clean record for maternal mortality.

Death-Rate.

Your death-rate in 1947 was above the national average, but the general trend since 1935 has been almost identical with the rest of England and Wales.

Infantile and Neonatal Deaths.

Infantile deaths are deaths in children under the age of one year, and included in this figure are the neonatal deaths which are deaths in children under one month of age. This distinction helps to separate the deaths which are due to factors connected with pregnancy, child-birth and abnormal development which are more likely to cause death within the first month, from the factors connected with infant management which are more likely to cause death between one month and one year.

There were three infant deaths all of which were neonatal deaths. The infantile death-rate was 44 per thousand live-births. This means that $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of all babies born alive will die before reaching their first birthday. You will remember that in 1910 the figure in Ambleside was $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and that in the first year of your formation, 1935, it was $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Your figures are too scanty to carry statistical significance on their own merits, but as they run parallel with the figures for England and Wales I feel that they do reflect a very satisfactory improvement in child-care by the local doctors, nurses, and, above all, by the young mothers in their homes.

The neonatal deaths contain what we might call the hard core of "unavoidable" infant deaths. Many of these are due to prematurity, abnormality or are the result of difficult child-birth. It does not appear likely that science will be able to prevent developmental abnormalities, but there are high hopes that blood tests and the increased availability of obstetrical specialists will help to reduce the number of neonatal deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE.

| DISEASE. | Total. | Ages. | | | | | | | | | | Admitted to Hospital. | Deaths. | |
|------------------------|--------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|---------|-----|
| | | -1 | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 20- | 35- | | | 45- |
| Scarlet Fever .. | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria .. | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia .. | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Erysipelas .. | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis .. | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles .. | 48 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 27 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough .. | 4 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total .. | 62 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 27 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Apart from measles the Urban District had a fortunate year in the low prevalence of infectious diseases. This is probably due to a number of factors, but I think that the favourable weather conditions played an important part. The end of the winter was marked by two months of sharp frosty weather which was much healthier than the wet months of the preceding autumn. When spring arrived a period of warm sunny days were the prelude to one of the most glorious summers of recent years. I believe that these circumstances did much to clear up the winter ills and help to build up resistance to infection.

Measles.

48 cases were notified, and it is probable that further cases occurred. The disease came in two definite attacks and affected two particular areas. The first outbreak occurred during the first quarter of the year in the Ambleside district and was associated with the concurrent epidemic in Windermere. The second outbreak took place in the last two months of the year in the Patterdale area, and was due to the spread up the valley road of the big epidemic which commenced in North Westmorland around Penrith and was still raging at the year end. The age incidence was mainly in children of school age, and I believe that most of the spread of the disease took place in the schools. Luckily very few babies contracted Measles, and as it was not of a severe type there were no admissions to hospital and no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

There was only one mild case, which did not require hospital treatment. The severity of this disease is apparently getting milder, and the risk of complications has been greatly reduced by modern treatment methods. The present trend of medical opinion is that under suitable circumstances Scarlet Fever can well be nursed at home.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to record that there was only one case during the year, and that occurred in an adult visitor who had not been immunised. The steady decline of this disease has undoubtedly been due to the effect of immunisation. This free service is available to all, and comprises two small injections into the arm, between the ages of eight months and one year, with a reinforcing dose on starting

school at five years old. This gives protection against this deadly disease. I wish to thank local doctors and district nurses for their efforts to secure the immunisation of every baby before the first birthday, and the school medical officers for their part in helping to wipe out Diphtheria in the Lakes.

Infantile Paralysis.

One fatal case of acute anterior poliomyelitis occurred in an adult. I suspect that this man was infected by one of the holiday visitors who had very recently stayed at this farm. I was aware of two further patients who were holiday visitors, but both these persons arrived with the disease and both went home before the diagnosis had been made by a doctor. On the whole the District escaped very lightly from the nation-wide epidemic of Infantile Paralysis.

Hospital Arrangements for Infectious Disease.

At the beginning of 1947 the following arrangements were in force for the admission of cases of infectious disease to hospital from the District:—

| | | |
|----------------|-----|--|
| Smallpox | ... | Kendal and District Smallpox Hospital. |
| Scarlet Fever | } | Kendal Isolation Hospital. |
| Diphtheria | | |
| Other diseases | ... | Lancaster Isolation Hospital. |

During the year changes were made on account of the unsuitability of the Kendal and District Smallpox Hospital at Woodside for further use, and the closure of the Kendal Isolation Hospital. The current arrangements at the year end were:—

| | | |
|----------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| Smallpox | ... | Fairhill Isolation Hospital, Penrith. |
| Other diseases | ... | Lancaster Isolation Hospital. |

Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

The motor ambulance belonging to Kendal Borough has been chartered as required for the conveyance of infectious cases to hospital from the District. This function will be administered by the County Council from the middle of next year as part of the general fire and ambulance service.

Disinfection Arrangements.

Disinfection facilities for clothing and bedding are not very satisfactory owing to the lack of a steam disinfecter. It is possible at

considerable expense to hire transport and have articles steam disinfected at Kendal. Reliance is therefore more usually placed upon disinfection with formaldehyde in the patient's house.

Disinfection of premises and other chattels is carried out locally and presents no special problems.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

| Age Periods. | NEW CASES. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| 25 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 35 | 3 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 45 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 4 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | 1 |

Of the cases notified during the year one pulmonary and one non-pulmonary died.

HOUSING.

Present Housing Position.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 57.

There are 1,708 inhabited houses in your District. With an estimated population of 5,173 the average number of persons per house is three. This figure is purely hypothetical since many of the better-class houses have only one or two occupants, and a number of the smaller houses are occupied or let furnished only in holiday times

by absentee landlords. Therefore it is probable that the working-class houses have an average of at least four persons per house, which is not excessive for a normal-sized family, and no overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act, 1936, is known to exist.

Since most of the working-class property is very old the structural state is not good. Many of the houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp-proof courses which cannot be remedied without extensive works in under-pinning. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a very slow process, but heavy repair costs and low rentals have made housing repairs unprofitable to the landlords.

The results of the Housing Survey of your District completed during the year give some idea of the structural state of the smaller houses of a rateable value of £22 and under, excluding farmhouses. The Survey was confined to the rural parishes of Rydal and Loughrigg, Troutbeck, Langdales, and Patterdale, and the valuable information which was brought to light will cause the survey to be extended to your urban parishes of Ambleside and Grasmere at a later date.

The standard of classification was that recommended and approved by the County of Westmorland Rural Housing Joint Committee under the terms of the Ministry of Health Circular 64/44, dated 24th May, 1944, and was as follows:—

CLASS 1. *Satisfactory in all respects.*

Houses having modern amenities and of a standard comparable with the houses recently erected for agricultural workers.

CLASS 2. *Minor Defects.*

Houses presenting defects of repair only but otherwise conforming to Class 1.

CLASS 3. *Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.*

Houses lacking any one or more of the amenities of Class 1 and not falling within Classes 4 and 5.

CLASS 4. *Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.*

Up to a standard conforming with the Building Byelaws.

CLASS 5. *Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.*

Houses which will be condemned very soon.

The modern amenities which are applicable to Class 1 include the following principal items:—

1. Internal water supply.
2. „ slop sink.
3. „ fresh-water closet.
4. Fixed bath.
5. Hot water installation.
6. Adequate washing facilities.
7. Properly ventilated food store.
8. Artificial lighting by gas or electricity.

These were considered separately from the other essentials of freedom from dampness, disrepair, and bad lighting or ventilation. On this basis the following results were published during the year:—

| PARISH. | Number of Houses of R.V. £22 & less. | Classes. | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------|----|-----|----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Rydal and Loughrigg | 78 | 5 | 3 | 66 | 4 | 0 |
| Troutbeck | 92 | 11 | 6 | 54 | 11 | 10 |
| Langdales | 163 | 3 | 0 | 129 | 11 | 20 |
| Patterdale | 185 | 18 | 3 | 143 | 2 | 19 |
| Rural Total | 518 | 37 | 12 | 392 | 28 | 49 |

An analysis of the lack of modern amenities in each parish gives an indication of the work which will be needed in the future:—

| AMENITY STATE | 78 Houses in Rydal and Loughrigg | 92 Houses in Troutbeck | 163 Houses in Langdales | 185 Houses in Patterdale |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| No internal water | 10 | 21 | 80 | 96 |
| No internal slopsink | 6 | 28 | 60 | 102 |
| No ventilated food store .. | 27 | 28 | 78 | 93 |
| No fresh water closet | 35 | 45 | 117 | 105 |
| No fixed bath | 61 | 49 | 139 | 128 |
| No hot water system | 60 | 51 | 132 | 120 |
| No clothes washing facilities | 11 | 29 | 23 | 72 |
| No gas nor electricity | 39 | 33 | 147 | 94 |

Housing Act Action.

No condemnation action was taken during the year on account of the current housing shortage. Much work will be required in the near future as it is essential that the necessary preliminary action should be commenced on condemnable property. In this way you will avoid subsequent delay, the operation of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, will be facilitated, and your future housing requirements can be more accurately assessed.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 12.

There were no Closing Orders in force at the end of the year.

Undertakings.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.

The number of houses subject to undertakings that they will not be used for human habitation was four. One of these at Blue Hill is used as an office; two at Knott Houses, Grasmere, and one at Winterseed, Grasmere, are used for agricultural purposes.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.

One Demolition Order is outstanding on Island View Cottage, Grasmere. This Order was made by your Council in 1937 but was not enforced. The house is now illegally occupied. This is not satisfactory.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 25.

An outstanding Clearance Order exists at Township, Patterdale. There are six houses in this Order: one is empty, one is occupied by an original tenant who refused the offer of a Council house, and four were allowed to be reoccupied by evacuees during the 1939/45 war on the understanding that they would return to their own area after the war. The houses are not occupied under licence nor requisitioned under Defence Regulations, and their position is now irregular. I must recommend that all these persons should be rehoused as soon as possible.

Condemned House Occupied by Licence or Requisition.

Defence Regulations.

No condemned houses have been occupied by bombed-out persons by your licence under Defence Regulation 68A, nor by persons inadequately housed by your requisition under Defence Regulation 51.

Estimated Requirement for New Houses.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 71.

In conjunction with your Building Surveyor I estimate that the following figures will provide an approximate guide for your future planning of housing requirements:—

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Replacement of condemned houses still occupied | ... | 6 |
| „ „ condemnable houses | | 86 |
| Provision of house for each family unit | | 54 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | Total | 146 |

In addition to these 146 houses required there is a demand from persons now resident outside the area for homes nearer their work within the Lakes Urban District.

You cannot start the erection of such a large number of houses at the present time on account of controls of material and labour, but you can go a long way towards cutting out subsequent delays. You now know from the Housing Survey the number of Class 5 houses in each parish, you know from this report where the condemned houses still occupied are situated, and you have some idea from your housing application lists where are the houses which are being shared by more than one family.

You therefore know how many houses are likely to be wanted in each parish, and indeed in each village, and the first way to save subsequent delay is to find enough suitable sites, obtain clearance for them under the planning legislation, get the layouts and designs agreed, the quantities prepared, and even your site works, roads, sewers, water and electricity ready. If you will carry out this essential and time consuming preliminary work now, right up to the stage of going to tender, you will leap to the forefront of housing authorities and you will, I am sure, get the support of the Ministry of Health and the thanks of your own folk.

Once more at this stage I would remind you of your steadily ageing population, and would recommend you to make adequate provision

for old people's dwellings near the centre of your townships and villages. The general policy in housing is to site development around the existing villages, rather than to encourage straggling over wide areas; and I feel that this is particularly important for old people who need some community help in the time of their difficulties, but who enjoy the pride of their independence at other times.

The need for agricultural workers' houses is a more difficult problem at the present time. The policy of the Government is against tied cottages, the shortage of help in the farmhouse is hardening farmers' wives against the labourers living-in, and there is the vicious circle of the worker wanting a house before he comes, and the local authority being empowered to let the house only to the tenant and not to the farmer. Furthermore, the siting of farm workers' cottages in existing villages may be satisfactory in arable farming, but it leads to difficulties in stock-rearing farms where the labour needs to be near the job. The County Agricultural Executive Committee have been reviewing the housing requirements of agricultural houses, and will probably represent their findings to your Council in due course.

Local Authority Schemes.

Your Council had eight houses under construction at the end of the year. These are situated at Blue Hill, Ambleside,² and consist of four three-bedroom houses and four four-bedroom houses.

Your Council have selected a site at Stonecroft, Ambleside, which will take about 20 houses. A preliminary layout was drawn up but the matter was still under consideration at the year end. The site has not yet been acquired.

Your Council have a scheme at Benfield, Grasmere, for ten houses. Two four-bedroom houses, four three-bedroom houses, and four two-bedroom houses. No start has been made on this scheme. The site has been acquired and clearance through the controls has been accomplished.

Housing Building Progress.

No new houses were completed during the year by your Council or by private enterprise. Two conversions of existing dwellings were carried out.

² 35/379040.

Tenants Selection.

The present method of selecting tenants for your Council houses is for your Housing Committee to consider all the applications and then select the tenants who they consider are most in need of being rehoused. No points system is in operation and there is no anonymity. The application lists are long out of date. Many of the applicants on the list have removed from the District, and the circumstances of many of the others have changed during the last few years. The list is now inaccurate and misleading. In my opinion this difficulty can be overcome only by maintaining a live register compiled from reapplications made at intervals not longer than once a year. Reapplicants would retain their seniority on subsequent lists and would have the opportunity of reporting changes in their family circumstances.

Housing Management.

Your Council now own 53 houses. Routine repairs and maintenances are carried out by the local contractors. Your present estates do not justify the employment of direct labour, but in the years to come the number of your houses will be increased and the maintenance will require constant attention, and if the fourth Hobhouse Report is implemented you may be faced with considerable reconditioning of the rural houses.

The rents of your Council houses vary between 7/3d. and 8/- per week for the three-bedroomed houses, and 10/- per week for the four-bedroomed houses, all exclusive of rates. From these figures you will see that present day building costs will not enable you to maintain such rents on your new houses unless there is a substantial increase in the rate of Government subsidy.

The rateable value of your Council houses is slightly different in each parish:—

| | | | 3 Bedrooms | 4 Bedrooms |
|------------|----|----|------------------|------------|
| Ambleside | .. | .. | £11 | £12 |
| Grasmere | .. | .. | £9 | £12 |
| Patterdale | .. | .. | £8 old £9 new | — |

The examination of rentals and rates may not seem at first sight to have much to do with public health, but it does have considerable significance. It is not unknown for persons who have been rehoused from poor quarters into modern Council houses to have to pay their rent and rates from that portion of their income which rightly belongs to the purchase of food. Domestic economy can affect the general standard of the public health almost as much as environmental conditions, and some attempt must be made to maintain a balance between these conflicting factors.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

No action was necessary during the year.

Nuisances and Notices in Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 91-100.

During the year the following action was taken: —

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Preliminary Notices served | ... | ... | ... | 292 |
| Statutory Notices served | ... | ... | ... | 15 |

In no case was it necessary to obtain an abatement order from the Court. There was a general desire on the part of owners to remedy defects in spite of the current difficulties of controls and the shortage of labour and materials.

Dangerous Buildings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 58.

No action was necessary.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and Movable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 168-269.

Seven licensed camping sites were on the register at the end of the year. No action was taken during the year. Your Council imposes conditions upon the grant of licences and requires their annual renewal. As this District is the nucleus of the future National Park it is most desirable that strict but unobtrusive supervision should be exercised over camping sites, to ensure that the natural beauty of the country is not despoiled by the careless few.

Unlicensed camping sites are scattered throughout the entire District, but very little nuisance arises from casual campers except on

White Moss Common where considerable fouling occurs in summer-time. Elsewhere the improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal cause little nuisance, but casual campers take water from polluted becks at their own risk.

Two individual licences were in force during the year.

A collection of wooden sheds used for weekend camping was discovered in a well-screened part of the District near Skelwith Bridge. These have been erected without the Council's permission and constitute an undesirable precedent for the indiscriminate and unauthorised erection of shacks which are not in keeping with the amenities of the District, and which aggravate the sanitary administration. Action will be taken to regularise this encampment.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water Act, 1945.

General.

The public water supplies are limited to three areas of your Urban District—Ambleside, Grasmere, and Chapel Stile. The quality of the Ambleside and Grasmere supplies is satisfactory after treatment, but the Chapel Stile supply is variable. The results of laboratory examinations of the raw and treated waters are set out in Appendix A.

Only the Grasmere supply is unfailing in quantity. The Ambleside supply is generally adequate except in periods of drought, but this difficulty has now been overcome by a connection to your reservoir from the Thirlmere Aqueduct of Manchester Corporation, which was used for the first time during the severe drought of 1947. The Chapel Stile supply runs very short in dry weather and proposals are in hand for an emergency additional source to be fed into this system.

Ambleside Supply. The source is Scandale Beck³ which is upland surface run-off from the rocks of the Borrowdale volcanic series. The gathering ground is unhabited but sheep grazing throughout the year and cattle grazing in summer-time occur above the intake. The beck comes down alongside a popular walking route, and, although pollution is minimal and dilution is great, the water is strained through a copper screen and chlorinated. A covered storage reservoir⁴ of 366,000 gallons storage capacity has a top water-level of 442 O.D.

³ 35/376059 approx.

⁴ 35/376055.

The supply to Ambleside and parts of the parishes of Rydal and Loughrigg is thence by gravitation. The average daily consumption is about 350,000 gallons or about 143 gallons per head for 2,450 estimated consumers in 754 houses. The headworks were constructed in 1881.

Grasmere Supply. The source is Tongue Ghyll⁵ which is also upland surface water from similar rocks on an uninhabited catchment area. Sheep grazing occurs throughout the year and the ghyll is followed by the track leading down from Grisedale Hause much used by holiday walkers. The water is therefore filtered through limestone and chlorinated. There is a covered storage reservoir nearby of 100,000 gallons capacity with a top water-level of 642 O.D. The supply to Grasmere township is thence by gravitation, and the average daily consumption is about 100,000 gallons or 118 gallons per head for 850 estimated consumers in 259 houses. The headworks were constructed in 1902.

Chapel Stile. The source is Meg's Ghyll⁶ which is also upland surface water from Borrowdale volcanic rock. The gathering ground is uninhabited but light sheep grazing occurs throughout the year. The water is untreated and is very variable in bacteriological quality. There is a small tank of 500 gallons capacity by the intake, but there is no storage reservoir. The supply to the villages of Chapel Stile and Elterwater is by gravitation. The average daily consumption is in excess of 10,000 gallons or 200 gallons per head for 500 estimated consumers. Although there is excessive waste the storage capacity is so small that the supply fails in times of drought.

A scheme is in course of preparation for an emergency supply of water to be pumped from a sump-hole in the valley gravel bed near New Bridge into the rising main of the Meg's Ghyll system. This water will be chlorinated and mixed with the water from the other source. It is probable that this ancillary supply will be required only in times of extreme drought, but I see no reason why it could not be used for meeting any increased demand caused by extension of the present system of mains. A major scheme for both the Langdale valleys is also under consideration, and if it is adopted it will supercede Meg's Ghyll and the emergency ancillary supply.

⁵ 35/342099 approx.

⁶ 35/323056.

The Rural Housing Survey completed during the year revealed the following conditions in the rural parishes outside Ambleside and Grasmere. Of the houses of a rateable value of £22 or under, the percentage of houses without internal water supply was:—

| | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Patterdale | ... | 52% |
| Langdales | ... | 49% |
| Troutbeck | ... | 23% |
| Rydal and Loughrigg | ... | 13% |

Outside the areas of the public water supplies conditions are generally poor. There are a few small privately-owned systems of varying quantity and unknown quality, and the rest of the District relies upon becks, small runners, superficial springs, and surface drainage catchpits, unreliable in yield and many of very undesirable quality.

No comprehensive survey has been made of individual private water supplies, and staff shortage precludes one in the near future. The shortage of water is however brought to my notice in times of over a fortnight's dry weather by the frequent complaints of distress from the populated areas of Troutbeck, Patterdale and the Langdales. It is sadly ironical that a district with 70 inches of rain in the year should be short of water, but the reason is that the impervious volcanic rocks cause a rapid run-off and the storage capacity of privately-owned systems has been dictated more by economy than foresight. The quality of the average private supply fluctuates widely, and I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals, and that if in doubt they should boil it.

Your Council are fully aware of this bad general water supply situation, and have commenced the preparation of schemes for improving the worst areas of Patterdale, Troutbeck and the Langdales. Many of these schemes have been protracted and considerable local impatience has been engendered, but one must view the situation historically to understand some of the reasons for the frustrations which have abounded.

The limiting factor has always been the cost. Rural water supplies involve long lengths of dead main, often laid through difficult ground, supplying a relatively small number of houses of low rateable value and low revenue producing potential. Until 1929 the costs fell upon the special rate of the parish concerned, and therefore any major scheme was prohibitive.

The Local Government Act, 1929, conferred upon the County Councils the power to make grants to District Councils towards the cost of water and sewage schemes, and empowered the local authorities to charge the general district rate instead of a special rate. The next step was the Rural Water Supplies Act, 1934, whereby the Government provided a grant of one million pounds towards the cost of rural water supplies. The less progressive areas were often too late in the preparation of their schemes to share in this grant before it was exhausted.

The Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, gave the Government power to make grants up to a total of fifteen million pounds to assist water and sewage schemes in rural areas. It further provided that County Councils shall contribute a similar amount to any grant made by the Minister of Health, but every such scheme has to have the prior approval of the County Council and the Minister. The expenses of the District Council must in future be defrayed out of the general rate.

The Minister urged all local authorities likely to be affected to review the requirements of their district, and to prepare far-sighted schemes to cover not only the existing needs but also the future agricultural and domestic requirements, particularly in view of the quantities of water needed for clean milk production and for the conversion of obsolete systems of sanitation.

The Water Act, 1945, dealt with water supplies in a more comprehensive manner. Meanwhile the war of 1939 to 1945 caused all such public works to stop, and the period of reconstruction after 1945 has been complicated by national economic difficulties and a general shortage of the necessary materials. In the preparation of schemes District Councils have to decide what can be done at a "reasonable cost" within the meaning of the Act, and to do this they must know what financial assistance will be forthcoming. At present there is no means of finding out whether there will be a grant, or if there will be how much it will be, short of producing a scheme and submitting it for decision.

Against that general outline of the national situation one can now examine your own water schemes. The Patterdale scheme was commenced in the days of the West Ward, before the parish was transferred to form a constituent of the Lakes Urban District in 1935. A

scheme was drawn up to use water from a group of springs above Braesteads Farm in Grisedale to supply both Glenridding and Patterdale. Negotiations for the acquisition of the source have been very protracted, and the scheme has not yet reached the stage of being ready to go to the Ministry of Health for approval. This area is badly in need of water, and it has been suggested that a temporary supply to Glenridding only might be obtainable from the now disused Army Camp in that village. The main scheme still remains on paper.

The Langdales were under consideration before 1935 when these areas were in South Westmorland Rural District. A scheme for Little Langdale had been made, but your Council did not find it to be acceptable. Further schemes for supplying either Little Langdale separately or both the Langdales together have been discussed off and on for many years, but difficulties appear to have been experienced. Some progress has been made, and the Little Langdale scheme has already gone to the Ministry for approval. An emergency scheme for Chapel Stile has already been mentioned, and is in course of installation without prejudice to any major schemes which may ultimately serve Great Langdale.

The Troutbeck water supply has been discussed several times, with a special revival of interest during the war years. This village is in the area of supply of Windermere Urban District, but your Council are at present taking steps to have it transferred to your own area of supply. This village is dependent for water upon a series of catch-pits, becks, and small private installations which are very unreliable in yield, almost dry-out in time of drought, and whose quality I suspect is very variable. Your Council have instructed your consulting engineers to prepare a scheme for supplying the village from Woundle Beck. No schemes have yet gone for approval to the Ministry of Health.

The frustrations have been a source of sorrow to your Council and have aroused impatience or despair in the folk who live in these areas; they have prevented the bringing of the amenities of a safe and sufficient water supply and the decencies of a twentieth century sanitation system into the more populous parts of your rural areas. I hope that when controls and restriction are removed we shall be allowed to set our houses in order.

SEWERAGE.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 14.

Disposal Methods and Works.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 15.

Public sewerage systems are at present very limited in the District, and I have to advise your Council that extensions and new installations are desirable in several places, particularly in view of the proposed new water supplies.

Ambleside is the only area within your District which possesses a sewage disposal plant of any size. The works were designed by Mr. Baldwin Latham, of London, in 1913, and comprise the following plant.

An 18-inch main sewer discharges below the surface of a screening chamber. The coarse screens do not appear to have been in use for a long time. The sewage then passes through detritus tanks where the heavier solids are in theory deposited. The sewage from Waterhead is also pumped into this chamber.

The flow is then gauged and passes into two sedimentation tanks, each approximately 54 feet long, 14 feet deep, and six feet deep. The supernatant fluid then passes over the weir to channels which supply the siphons of three travelling distributors.

The three filter beds are each approximately 250 feet long, 25 feet wide, and three feet deep, reputed to be filled with local rock suitably graded, and a surface layer of granite chippings. The sewage is evenly distributed over these beds from the travelling distributors which are motivated by the weight of sewage on the rotary drums of the distributor. There are no humus tanks and the effluent is piped in an 18-inch main to its outfall underneath Rothay Bridge into the river.

There are six storm-water tanks, each 20 feet long, 15 feet eight inches wide, and four feet deep, which are fed over a weir, and the supernatant water is discharged through a 12-inch pipe, by-passing the filter beds to the final effluent channel.

The sludge from the sedimentation tanks and the storm-water tanks is pumped into a covered sludge shed about 100 feet long and ten feet wide. After draining and some drying it is afterwards manually removed for disposal by burying it on the refuse tip as there is little demand for its agricultural use.

The main difficulties in sewage disposal at this site are due to the lack of fall. The invert level of the main sewer outfall is about two feet lower than the top water level of the sedimentation tanks, and leads to sedimentation of solids in the length of the main sewer which necessitates weekly flushing to prevent blockage. The filter beds are relatively shallow and they support very little life. The final effluent is very variable in quality during normal working and extremely bad during the weekly flushing of the system.

The travelling distributors have given trouble during the year by frequently sticking in one position. The sludge drying beds are inadequate in area for the proper drying of the offensive dregs. The two pumps are each only $3\frac{1}{2}$ horse-power and take a long time each day to deal with the Waterhead sewage.

I believe that the works were designed to deal with a dry weather flow of about 180,000 gallons per day, and during a very dry spell it was calculated that the D.W.F. was about 175,000 gallons. It is, however, so rare to have any prolonged period of dry weather that a figure of 250,000 gallons per day is nearer the normal flow, and the sewage tends to be weak in its constitution. I suspect that there is an excessive admittance of infiltration water into the sewage system.

I have advised your Council that an Engineer's Report should be obtained upon the sewage disposal works in order to ascertain what improvements are practicable in either the structure or operation of the plant.

Chapel Stile is sewered into a large septic tank which has an outfall into the river.

Troutbeck has a short length of sewer which serves only a few houses and leads into a small septic tank. When Troutbeck receives the proposed new water supply it will be necessary to construct a proper sewerage system. The subsoil is too shallow for the satisfactory operation of individual cesspools for so many houses in this village. I recommend that this matter should be considered concurrently with the water scheme.

Patterdale is sewered by a short length of piping into a septic tank in Robinson's field.

No public sewerage system exists in Grasmere, Glenridding, Rydal, and Little Langdale, nor in the more scattered rural hamlets and townships.

Grasmere already has a public water supply and the sewage disposal at present is into individual cesspools which are emptied yearly by

your Council. The effluents pass into the gravelly subsoil and cause little nuisance, except on the harder land bordering the valley bottom. Considering that the resident population of Grasmere is about 900, the number of houses is 274, and the average water consumption is 118 gallons per head per day, it will be necessary at some future date to consider the proper sewerage of the township to meet its development and holiday popularity.

Glenridding will require consideration when the proposed new water supply is installed, and I recommend that this should be considered concurrently with the water scheme.

These places comprise the more obvious and outstanding problems of sewerage, and from the standpoint of the maintenance of the public health I would rate their relative claims for priority thus: 1. Troutbeck; 2. Glenridding; 3. Ambleside plant; 4. Grasmere; 5. Other small schemes for hamlets and townships.

Prevalence of Water-Closets and Other Methods.

Water-closets have been installed mainly in the areas which are served by public sewers and in the better type of houses where private sewage systems have been made. A Survey made during 1947 revealed the following position:—

| Parish | Total Houses | With W.C. | | Without W.C. | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | | No. | Percentage | No. | Percentage |
| Ambleside | 710 | 698 | 98.3 | 12 | 1.7 |
| Grasmere | 274 | 219 | 80 | 55 | 20 |
| Langdales | 203 | 86 | 43 | 117 | 57 |
| Rydal and Loughrigg | 139 | 104 | 75 | 35 | 25 |
| Patterdale | 251 | 146 | 58 | 105 | 42 |
| Troutbeck | 131 | 86 | 66 | 45 | 34 |
| TOTALS | 1708 | 1339 | 78.5 | 369 | 21.5 |

Langdales, Patterdale and Troutbeck are the worst parishes, and as your District will be the nucleus of the future National Park and will receive an increasing number of holiday visitors from this country and overseas, it is most desirable that the extension of your sewerage schemes shall be followed by the conversion of earth-closets, privies, and privy middens to more modern hygienic water-closets.

Conversions.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 47.

Six conversions to water-closets were undertaken during the year. No grants were made by your Council towards the cost of these works.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 87.

Public conveniences are situated at Ambleside, Grasmere, and Waterhead. Plans for the erection of conveniences at Glenridding were made before the war, but it has not been possible to commence the work. In view of the large number of holiday-makers who arrive in Glenridding from the Lake Steamers, it is most urgent that proper sanitary arrangements should be available.

Proposed Sewerage Schemes.

A number of small private schemes for sewage disposal were carried out, but no public scheme or extension was under consideration at the year end. I have already referred to the places where I consider schemes should be installed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING**Refuse Collection.**

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 72.

Domestic refuse is collected from the whole of your District with the exception of a few detached and isolated dwellings. Your Council's own vehicles and staff are used for this work in all but the Hartsop area where refuse is collected by a private contractor.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 76.

Disposal of refuse is carried out by controlled tipping on five of your Council's tips and one private tip. The greatest difficulty in controlled tipping is to obtain sufficient covering material, and this is very scarce locally.

The Ambleside tip⁷ is not very suitably situated in the centre of a popular holiday resort, and the amenities of the township would be improved by some alternative arrangement. The tip has long since become full and is now rising well above the level of the adjoining land. A new site is urgently required.

⁷ 35/372041.

The Grasmere tip⁸ is well screened from view and away from the township. It is getting rather full but there is no immediate urgency for obtaining a new site.

The Elterwater tip⁹ is shocking. The use of common land for virtually uncontrolled tipping in one of the beauty spots of Langdale cannot be defended. I have recommended that this unsightly mess be cleared up, and I have helped to find an alternative site. It appears possible that a good new site will be secured during 1948.

The Troutbeck tip in Benslop Wood¹⁰ is very well hidden by trees, but is not an ideal tip as it is thrown down such steep ground, giving an extensive face of decomposing garbage which cannot be satisfactorily covered up. I recommend that better arrangements should be made.

The Chapel Stile tip¹¹ is on private land. It is not a bad tip but it is alongside the cemetery and local feeling is that it is not appropriate from an amenity aspect. It is such a small tip that it would be better to reinstate the land and combine this area of collection with Elterwater in the proposed new tip.

The whole matter of refuse disposal has always been a difficulty in your District. The natural beauty of the country must not be desecrated by multiple dumps of ugly human refuse, yet the refuse must be put somewhere and the land does not yield enough covering material to hide and minimise the consequent nuisances of unsightliness, smell, rats and fire. In the days of horse-drawn refuse carts and local contractors it was obviously imperative to use multiple local tips, but now motor transport has changed the situation. I think you should aim at centralising your tips, thus limiting the nuisances and favouring better supervision of the tip faces.

Salvage of Waste Material.

Salvage Recovery Order, 1940.

Salvage is carried out in the national interest at a loss to your Council. It is quite obvious that with six small scattered tips serving a mere five thousand of population, the sorting and collection of waste materials will be most uneconomical. However, your Council are

⁸ 35/341078 approx.

⁹ 35/330049.

¹⁰ 35/348017.

¹¹ 35/319053.

aware of the wider issues and they have ensured that the salvage of wastepaper has been steadily maintained and the public stimulated at intervals to improve their yield. Rags, bones and iron were also salvaged in small amounts.

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 77.

The work is undertaken by the Highways Department, and the streets are well maintained.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder, your Council has the duty of carrying out specific responsibilities in the registration of certain food premises, in the supervision of milk and dairies, and in the wide field of protection of the public from foodborne diseases. The County Council are responsible for the licensing of designated milk producers, the adulteration of foodstuffs, and the supervision of the sale of drugs.

The Act came into force just before the commencement of the late war, and apart from the Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations which were continued from earlier Acts, its full operation has not yet been locally achieved. The Ministry of Health is sponsoring a vigorous campaign against foodborne diseases, and the proper implementation of the Act should give a greater measure of protection to the public. The co-operation of the catering trade and the education of all foodhandlers in a high standard of hygiene will be sought under the wide powers provided by the Act.

Precaution against contamination.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 13.

Food traders and caterers observe a fairly good standard of cleanliness on the average, but considerable work lies ahead in raising the standard of those who are now below that average. I want to see cleaner food, cleaner premises, and cleaner foodhandlers.

This aim is of major importance. It will involve my department carrying out your statutory responsibilities with particular diligence, and it will require the education and co-operation of all foodhandlers within your Area.

I am confident that this co-operation will be forthcoming. I believe that traders are eager to set their premises in order in the

interests of enterprise and competition, and they are anxious to eliminate slipshod methods among their staffs.

Thorough cleanliness in the kitchen is far more important than titivation in the dining-room. No food trader nor caterer should be ashamed to show his customers behind the scenes, and every customer should be confident that the food he eats is clean and has been clearly prepared. He has a right to be so protected, and your Council is the guardian of that right.

Foodborne diseases, mild Dysenteries, and attacks of Diarrhœa and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes, and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Ice-cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | } 5 not yet differentiated. |
| Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale | ... | | | | | | |
| Storage and sale only | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| | | | | | | | 11 |

During the year all registrations were reviewed because the 1947 Regulations entailed the specific registration of premises for hot mix or cold mix manufacture.

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into force during the year and stimulated traders to undertake improvements. The response was good in spite of the cost and difficulty in obtaining equipment.

A comprehensive code of standards for ice-cream factories, plant and retail units is being worked out for the approval of your Council and subsequent circulation to the trade.

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14.

The number of premises on the Register under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, pressed meat, and pickled foods was seven at the year end. No particular difficulties have been encountered in these trades.

Registration of Dairies and Dairymen.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| Total number of registered Dairies | ... | ... | 70 |
| „ „ Dairymen | ... | ... | 70 |
| Producer-retailers within the District | ... | ... |) Figures not available. |
| „ „ outside „ | ... | ... | |
| Retailers from premises within the District | ... | | 70 |
| „ „ outside „ | ... | | 5 |

15 visits of inspection were made to milk premises. One cowshed was reconstructed and a new dairy made. Some Informal Notices were issued to effect improvements, and no Legal Notices are outstanding.

The retail distribution of milk is both by bottled milk and the old-fashioned loose method. Traders are becoming keener to meet the desire of the enlightened customers for bottling. Milk-round vehicles are maintained generally in a clean condition. Rationalisation of milk-rounds is still in force, and is not in the best interests of the consumer. It is disappointing that more tuberculin-tested milk is not available in the District, but as the number of attested herds increase there will be more opportunities for the public to be supplied.

Cleanliness of Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 68.

Only three tests were taken and all were satisfactory. Considerably more sampling will be needed in the future if your Council is to carry out its statutory responsibilities in a proper manner.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 68.

Two samples were examined biologically in guinea pigs for the presence of tuberculous organisms and both were negative. The finding of tubercle bacilli in milk is difficult, and one must bear in mind the human biological tests on your own children with their tragic record of 23 new cases and two deaths in the past ten years from non-respiratory tuberculosis. The growing popularity of the Attested Herds Scheme and Tuberculin-Tested Milk production, together with the pasteurisation of accredited and ungraded milks will gradually reduce this toll of human suffering. More extensive routine sampling would appear to be required.

No instances of other disease producing organisms in milk were found. We know that *Brucella Abortus*, the organism which causes contagious abortion in cattle and undulant fever in man, can be isolated from a good proportion of bulked milk supplies, and it is probable that milk infections constantly occur. No serious cases have been encountered and the veterinary profession is taking steps to inoculate cattle against the disease.

It was not necessary to stop any milk supply or restrict the activities of any milkhandlers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943, on account of infectious disease.

Designated Milks.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946.

The County Council is responsible for the granting of annual licences authorising the use of the special designations “ Tuberculin-Tested ” and “ Accredited ” in respect of establishments at which the milk is produced and bottled or only produced. The following establishments in the District were so licensed:—

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|---|
| Tuberculin-Tested | ... | 1 |
| Accredited | ... | 3 |

Your District Council is responsible for the granting of dealers’ and supplementary annual licences for the sale of Tuberculin-Tested and Accredited milks. The following licences were in force during the year:—

Tuberculin-Tested and Accredited Milks.

T.T. Accredited.

| | | | |
|---|--------|---|---|
| Form B. Licence in respect of an establishment (not being the establishment at which the milk is produced) at which at milk is bottled | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Form B. Dealer’s Licence in respect of each shop or other establishment (not being the establish- ment at which the milk is produced or bottled) at or from which the milk is sold | | 1 | 0 |
| Form D. Supplementary Licence with respect to milk sold from a shop or other establishment which is outside the area of the licensing authority | | 0 | 0 |

Pasteurised Milk.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Form C. Pasteuriser's Licence in respect of the establishment in which the process of pasteurising is carried on, and of any shop or other establishment in the area of the same licensing authority at or from which themilk is sold by the same dealer (Holder Process) | o |
| Form E. As for Form C with the exception that the pasteurisation process shall be by the High Temperature Short-Time Process | o |
| Form B. Dealer's Licence in respect of each shop or other establishment (not being an establishment covered by a licence under Form C or E) at or from which the milk is sold | c |
| Form D. Supplementary Licence in relation to milk sold from a shop or other establishment which is outside the area of the licensing authority | o o |

There are no pasteurisation plants within the District, nor are there any plants for the heat treatment of milk in accordance with the Ministry of Food action under Defence Regulation 55G.

Adulteration of Milk and Other Foods.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 1-7.

This matter is the responsibility of the County Council, and I anticipate that the County Medical Officer of Health will include in his Annual Report some information relating to this aspect.

Licenced Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 57-61.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses but these are not in use on account of the centralisation of all slaughtering under the Ministry of Food's arrangements. There are no knackers' yards in your District.

Condemnation of Meat.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 10 and 12.

All slaughtering is carried out at the Kendal Abattoir where the meat is inspected by the Borough Inspectors. It was, however, found

necessary during the year for your own Inspector to condemn the following meat which had deteriorated in the course of distribution:—

517 lbs. of Meat.

Condemnation of Other Food.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 10 and 12.

The following foodstuffs were condemned by your Inspectors during the year:—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Prunes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 lbs. |
| Tinned Veggies. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 „ |
| Tinned Fish | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 tins |
| Nut Butter | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 lbs. |
| Pickles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 300 „ |

General Sanitary Inspection.

Your Council employs one part-time Sanitary Inspector and his salary is apportioned between his sanitary inspection duties and his other duties in a proportion approved by the Ministry of Health. You receive, through the County Council, a grant of one-half of that apportionment of his salary allocated to sanitary inspection, and this should therefore be the basis upon which his time is devoted to the various duties.

The control of civil building work threw an undue strain upon the department to the prejudice of sanitary inspection, and I hope that next year there will be some relief of this imposition.

The Sanitary Inspector is somewhat handicapped by insufficient clerical assistance. It is desirable that the time of technical staff should not be dissipated on clerical duties, although a certain amount of office work can be done only with that technical knowledge.

It is difficult to arrange duties in combined appointments in a small local authority, particularly when an inspector is single-handed, and there has to be considerable elasticity to cover all the responsibilities. I am keeping this matter under review.

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 39 factories on the Register. 36 inspections were made and three written notices were served, two of which were for defective sanitary conveniences and were remedied. One Legal Notice remained outstanding at the end of the year. No prosecutions were required. No references were made to H. M. Inspector and only one was received from him.

No lists of outworkers were supplied to your Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect.

There are no basement bakehouses in the District. No action has been taken regarding the means of escape from factories in case of fire.

Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Ministry of Labour and National Service giving the details of your Urban District's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

Inspections.

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 10 | 21 | 2 | — |
| Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 29 | 15 | 1 | — |
| Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 39 | 36 | 3 | — |

Cases in which Defects were found.

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of cleanliness | — | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | — | — | — | I | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL .. | 2 | 2 | — | I | — |

Common Lodging Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Part IX.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

Rent Restriction Acts.

No action was taken during the year under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts, and no contraventions of Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1936, regarding rent book entries were encountered.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 101-106.

No action was required.

Laboratory Service.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 196.

Satisfactory laboratory facilities were available both at Kendal and Carlisle for all public health purposes. During the year a new scheme was inaugurated by the Public Health Laboratory Service for the performance of all laboratory examinations of a preventive and epidemiological nature, free of charge to the local authority and the patient. This should do much to encourage the freer use of modern diagnostic methods by general practitioners and your Health Department.

Shops Acts, 1912-1936.

Occasional visits were made under the Shops Acts for the supervision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and the maintenance of suitable temperature. These duties are not adequately covered at present due to the prior claims of other work, but it is hoped to increase the supervision next year. Informal Notices were served whenever any contraventions were observed.

Byelaws.

Byelaws on public health matters are in force for:—

Building.

Slaughterhouses.

New Legislation.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

APPENDIX A
LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

| NATURE OF TEST | STANDARDS MAX. | AMBLESIDE RAW | AMBLESIDE TREATED | GRASMERE RAW | GRASMERE TREATED | CHAPEL STILE |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Pr. Coli count 370 .. | 3-10 | 20 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 90 |
| Faecal coli /strep. .. | 0 | + | 0 | + | 0 | + |
| Reaction. pH .. | — | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7-5 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| F & S Ammonia .. | .005 | .005 | .005 | .006 | .006 | .002 |
| Aluminoid Ammonia .. | .008 | .026 | .025 | .04 | .03 | .015 |
| Total Solids .. | — | 5.0 | 5.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 4.0 |
| Hardness { Perm. Temp. | — | 3.0 | 3.0 | .5 | .5 | 0 |
| | — | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| Chlorides .. | 30 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.8 |
| Nitrates .. | 3 | .88 | .90 | .9 | .9 | .92 |
| Nitrites .. | .1 | .15 | .15 | .2 | .2 | .2 |
| O.2 Absorbed .. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Poisonous Metals .. | .1 | .031 | .03 | .031 | .031 | .05 |
| Plumbosolvency .. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainfall 24 hrs. .. | .05 | .03 | .03 | .03 | .03 | 0 |
| Date Sampled .. | — | .34" | .34" | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| Sample Point .. | | 15/10/47 inlet to plant Kendal | 15/10/47 Rothay Holme Kendal | 16/10/47 Tank Intake Kendal | 16/10/47 House in Grasmere Kendal | 16/10/47 Tank Intake Kendal |
| Laboratory .. | | | | | | |

Chemical analysis results expressed in parts per 100,000.

